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LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 985 (1995) CONCERNING LIBERIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995 concerning Liberia (see annex) which was adopted by the Committee under the no-objection procedure on 31 December 1999 and is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(Signed) Martin ANDJABA
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 985 (1995)
concerning Liberia

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995 concerning Liberia covers the period from January to December 1999.

2. A report of the Committee covering its activities from January to December 1998 was submitted to the Security Council on 24 December 1998 (S/1998/1220).

II. SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

3. For 1999 the bureau consists of Ambassador Martin Andjaba (Namibia) as Chairman, with the delegations of Canada and Malaysia providing the two Vice-Chairmen.

4. During the period under review, the Committee held one informal consultation on 18 May 1999 to discuss communications received from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine, as outlined below.

5. On 19 April 1999, the Chairman of the Committee received a letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom providing the Committee with information relating to an alleged violation of the measures established in paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 788 (1992) of 19 November 1992. He also enclosed a copy of a letter and two press articles that he had sent to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) of 8 October 1997 concerning Sierra Leone.

6. On 27 April 1999, the Chairman received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations transmitting the results of an investigation carried out by the competent Ukrainian authorities concerning reports on the delivery, by a Ukrainian aircraft, of weapons and ammunition to Burkina Faso, which, allegedly, were flown on to Liberia and transported subsequently to non-governmental forces in Sierra Leone. That communication stated that the results of the investigation had established that the aforementioned delivery was made to Burkina Faso in accordance with Ukrainian legislation and the relevant norms of international law. In this connection, the competent Ukrainian authorities ascertained the authenticity of the seals, both on the delivery confirmation certificate and on the end-user certificate, and the fact that the relevant documentation did not contain any indication that the shipment was destined for re-export to any other legal or natural person in any other third country.

7. The Permanent Mission of Ukraine also indicated its grave concern at reports that the shipment could be subsequently re-exported in violation of the respective resolutions of the Security Council. A similar note was forwarded to the Chairman of Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone.

8. On 14 May 1999, the Committee received a joint communication from the delegations of the United Kingdom, Nigeria and the United States of America passing on additional information regarding a possible violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 985 (1995), as indicated in the letter received from the United Kingdom on 19 April 1999, and requested the Committee to forward this information to the Governments of Burkina Faso, Liberia and Ukraine requesting them to undertake thorough investigation on this matter.

9. On 26 May 1999, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, addressed letters to the Permanent Representatives of Burkina Faso, Liberia and Ukraine, informing them that the Committee had received information concerning an alleged shipment of arms from Ukraine to Sierra Leone via Burkina Faso and Liberia. He also indicated to them that the Committee was aware that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone had also received the same information and was seized of the matter.

10. The Chairman further informed them that that allegation pertained not only to a possible violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1132 (1997), but also to a possible violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 985 (1995), and requested them to ensure that any communication they might send in response to enquiries from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone on this matter were also copied to him for information. In that context, he also stated that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia might, of course, decide to pursue separately any relevant matters arising from those enquiries.

11. On 7 June 1999, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations copied, for the information of the Committee, a letter dated 1 June 1999 addressed to the Chairman of Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone on the above matter. The Committee did not receive replies from the Governments of Burkina Faso and Liberia.

III. OBSERVATIONS

12. The Committee does not have any specific monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the arms embargo and would like to recall its past observations that it relies solely on the cooperation of States and organizations in a position to provide pertinent information.